How to Use FamilyConnect®

Recently the Minneapolis-based nonprofit Search Institute published research showing that people are more likely to grow in their faith when their families put faith into practice at home. According to the Search Institute, "Four family practices are particularly important for helping young people grow in faith (both in childhood and adolescence): talking about faith with your mother; talking about faith with your father; having family devotions or prayer; and doing family projects to help other people."

FaithWeaver FamilyConnect® is designed around these family practices and was created to help you equip families to grow in their faith. FamilyConnect gives busy families an easy-to-use idea to start conversations about faith at least once during the week. These weekly pages reinforce what's being learned in FaithWeaver® Sunday school, and they're a great way to keep families connected—just e-mail the pages or print them out!

Quick Tips

- Create an e-mail sign-up sheet for parents to fill out and return, if you don't already have one.
- In your e-mail software, create a distribution list of parents' e-mail addresses.
- Put the distribution list (or separate names) in the BCC field to avoid exposing e-mail addresses to all recipients.
- Set up a weekly reminder to send out the FaithWeaver FamilyConnect PDFs to parents.
- Consider creating a standard e-mail cover letter to send out weekly, or copy and paste the following sample:

> **Dear Parent,**
> **Thank you for your child's participation in our Sunday school program. Attached you'll find a simple tip to help you start a faith conversation with your child sometime during the week. You are your family's faith weaver, and your actions and words are having a tremendous impact on your child's faith! Thanks for all you do.**

- Choose one of these two quick ways to attach the PDF files on the CD to an e-mail:

Traditional Navigation
If you are comfortable navigating through the files and folders on your computer, you can (1) leave the files on the CD, and attach each file directly from the CD to an e-mail or (2) copy all of the files to a location on your hard drive, and then attach them to your e-mails from that location. The files will be named FCWinter2012Lesson1, FCWinter2012Lesson2, and so.

CD Menu
When you put the CD in your computer, a menu will open with selections for each lesson. Click on the menu selection for the week that you wish to attach to your e-mail.

The file will open in Acrobat Reader. Click *File*. Click *Save a Copy*. Select your Desktop or other location in which to save the file. Click *Save*.

Now you can attach this file to an e-mail message. Once you have sent the e-mail, you can delete the file from your Desktop (or other location), as it now exists on the CD and in your e-mail Sent Items as an attachment.